

I CLAIM:

1. A method of preventing damage to or by a machine having individual drives for machine elements, said drives being susceptible to operational faults, comprising exchanging process information in a technical process associated with said machines via at least one data link; initiating, a drive braking function and/or a system standstill after detection of a faulty drive; and transmitting actual values of the faulty drive as nominal values to faultlessly operating drives.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising changing the actual values of the faulty drive by at least one mathematical function according to process requirements.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a real-time communication link as the data link.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising using a real-time Ethernet as the real-time data link.

5. A machine having individual drives for driving associated machine elements in a coordinated technical process, comprising at least one data link for exchanging process information, detector means for detecting a fault in at least one drive, braking and/or system standstill means, wherein actual values of a drive detected as having a fault are transmitted by a real-time Ethernet as nominal values to drives that are fault free.

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6. The machine according to claim 5, wherein said machine is a  
printing machine.

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